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BOOK REVIEWS

*Rise of the Spanish-American Republics as told in the Lives of their Lib-
erators.* By WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON. (New York, 1918. D.
Appleton and Company. Pp. xv, 380. \$3.00.)

It is quite fitting that Professor Robertson, who is the author of the first notable biographical work written by a North American in the field of Spanish-American history, should have undertaken this more comprehensive study of the personages who were responsible for the emancipation of the countries formerly comprised in the colonial domain of Spain in America. After many years of study, including an extended period of research in the principal archives and libraries of the countries involved, he has written a volume that may justly be considered as one of the most important contributions that has yet been made by scholars of the United States to the history of the Spanish-American struggle for independence. While the book can not be characterized as a complete history of the revolutionary period, it is more than a mere narrative of the lives of Spanish-American liberators. It is rather a concise résumé of the salient epochs of that period, with emphasis placed on the personal elements in the struggle.

The volume is divided into nine chapters. After the introductory one, which gives a brief sketch of Spanish colonial institutions and conditions in America on the eve of the revolutionary movement, the leading characters are taken up, a chapter being devoted to each of them. The author has selected the following seven men as most worthy of consideration: Miranda, Hidalgo, Iturbide, Moreno, San Martín, Bolívar, and Sucre. The reader will not find a complete biography of each of these men in the chapter that is designated by their respective names. There is necessarily some overlapping. Much about San Martín, for instance, is given in the chapter entitled, "Simón de Bolívar"; and some of the greatest achievements of Bolívar are inseparably connected with the career of Sucre. The chapter headings are, therefore, somewhat arbitrary, and have apparently been adopted more as a matter of convenience than from the standpoint of the subject matter included. In addition to the seven individuals mentioned, short sketches are also given of Artigas, Francia, Santander, O'Higgins, and others, whom the

author relegates to the position of minor characters. The concluding chapter brings forth a number of interesting observations suggested by the preceding narrative. It is significant that all seven of the chief actors met their end in a tragic way or in the midst of disillusion and disappointment. The causes of the revolt against Spain are summarized, and comparison made with that of the English colonies in America. An interesting analysis is given of the net results of the whole struggle as affecting the development of the modern Spanish-American republics.

In view of the wide differences of opinion among Spanish-American scholars as to the respective importance of their national heroes, it is interesting to note the conclusions arrived at by an unbiased North American student in this regard. Professor Robertson places Bolívar at the apex, calling him the "greatest personality of the heroic age of South America". He obviously believes that San Martín, while worthy of all the fame that has come to him, does not measure up to the high stature of the "Great Liberator". Sucre is given an exalted role, second only to Bolívar himself. The author believes that the people of Mexico have unjustly given first place to Hidalgo, whereas Iturbide should be considered as the real hero of Mexican independence. The chapter on Mariano Moreno brings to the attention of English readers more conspicuously than ever before the man who was characterized as the "soul of the revolution of 1810", and reveals the important part that he took in shaping the course of events in Argentina, even though he passed away at the outset of the struggle. The final estimate made of Miranda is that, while his work was of transcendental importance in the ushering in of the movement for independence, he was by no means a wholly unselfish patriot, and many of his activities in behalf of the colonies may have been actuated by a spirit of revenge toward Spain. It is gratifying to note throughout the sympathetic spirit, as well as the impartial, scholarly attitude, which the author has manifested.

The book contains an excellent bibliography citing printed and source materials. No references are given to authorities in the text. Two maps are included, one showing Spanish America on the eve of revolution, and the other, the Hispanic-American republics in 1831. Several excellent portraits of the various liberators are reproduced.

W. E. DUNN.